

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Office Action mailed November 5, 2009 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive to that Office Action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-7, 14-17, and 20-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-6, 14-17, 21, and 28-30 have been amended and claims 31-33 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims may be found, among other places, in Figure 1 and lines 11-18 on page 4 of the specification as originally filed. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned by phone if it is felt that this response does not place the Application in condition for allowance.

#### **Examiner Interview**

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the interview on November 19, 2009. During the interview, Examiner Chea suggested that clarifying that the firewall claimed in independent claims 1, 14, and 21 separates two networks (a management network and a data network) that are both located on the content distribution side of a information delivery system would overcome the prior art of record (e.g., Headings). Therefore, upon entry of this response, Applicants have amended the independent claims to clarify that the firewall claimed therein separates a management network from a data network, both of which are located on the content distribution side of the end-to-end network.

#### **Rejections under 35 USC § 103**

Claims 1, 6-7, 14-15, 20, 29-30 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura (US 2003/0048380), hereinafter referred to as Tamura, in view of Headings (US 2002/0143565), hereinafter referred to as Headings.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

receiving STB IP provisioning requests from STBs, provided by at least two different vendors, through a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning unit (NPU), the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of a

network, the STB IP provisioning requests outputted according to a first protocol

Neither Tamura nor Headings, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1. On page 3, the Office Action alleges that Headings teaches “a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing the NPU, the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of the network.” The Office Action also cites paragraph 49 of Headings in making this allegation. As correctly noted in the Office Action, Headings does describe a system for distributing digital media from various content suppliers (See Office Action on page 3.). While paragraph 49 of Headings does state that “a firewall 152 may be used between service platform 108 and client platforms 150 to prevent unauthorized access to or from service platform 108,” the firewall of Headings merely serves as a barrier between a client and a content supplier and thus does not “separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning unit (NPU), the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of a network,” as claimed. The Office Action tries to suggest that the service platform of Headings is equivalent to an NPU and client platforms (e.g., set top boxes) in Headings are equivalent to a management network. However, the management network of claim 1 serves to “control, provision, manage, and secure” customer premises equipment such as set-top boxes (See page 3, line 17, of the specification.). Therefore, the management network of claim 1 cannot be equivalent to the client platforms 150 of Headings and firewall 152 cannot constitute “a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning unit (NPU),” as claimed.

None of the other cited references (e.g. Tamura, Meza, Addington, etc) overcome these deficiencies of Headings. In addition, Applicant respectfully disagrees that the cited references are properly combinable as asserted in the 103 rejection. For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 distinguishes over the references of record and is in condition for allowance. Claims 6-7 depend from claim 1 and are distinguishable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, and further in view of the various features recited therein.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to have features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, claim 14 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons to those given in support of claim 1. Dependent claims 15 and 20 depend on claim 14 and are in

condition for allowance at least due to their dependence on an allowable claim as well as the features they recite.

Claims 3-5, 16-17 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Headings as applied to claims 2, 9, 15 above, and further in view of Meza (US 7,287,257), hereinafter referred to as Meza. Claims 3-5 depend from independent claim 1 discussed above and hence are allowable at least for depending on an allowable claim in addition to the features they recite. Claims 16-17 depend from independent claim 14 discussed above and hence are allowable at least for depending on an allowable claim in addition to the features they recite.

Claims 21-28 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura, and further in view of Addington et al. (US 2004/0261126), hereinafter referred to as Addington, further in view of Headings. Independent claim 21 has been amended to have features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, claim 21 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons given in support of claim 1. Claims 22-28 depend from independent claim 21 and hence are allowable at least for depending on an allowable claim in addition to the features they recite.

#### **New Claims**

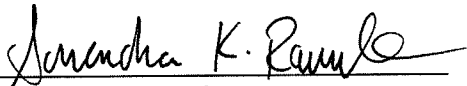
New dependent claim 31, which depends from independent claim 21, recites that “the firewall provides separation for a video-on-demand (VOD) and STB controller portion in the management network from the data network.” The firewall of Headings discussed above does not include this additional feature. Hence, dependent claim 31 is allowable at least for depending on allowable claim 21 in addition to the features recited therein.

New independent claim 32 has features similar to those of claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, claim 32 is in condition for allowance for at least similar reasons given in support of claim 1. Claim 33 depends from independent claim 32 and hence is allowable at least for depending on an allowable claim in addition to the features it recites.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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